

I hope this information is helpful to you. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. BARTHOLD.

IN HONOR OF DR. RAMA KHALSA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Rama Khalsa, who retired as the Director of Health Services of Santa Cruz County in the state of California. Not only was she a leader in the field of health services, but also in mental health. During her thirty-five years of service in the health care field, Rama was an advocate for reducing the costs and improving the quality of health services for low-income and uninsured residents of the county.

Her career began in 1976 as a Juvenile Court Psychologist in the San Bernardino County Probation Department, and then segued into mental health which has been her career. She has won numerous awards, participated in many research projects, has been awarded honors and doctorate degree, but is most proud of her accomplishments in the field of community access to mental health services.

She was a founder and first Chair of the Health Safety Net Clinic Coalition of Santa Cruz County, promoted the potential of Health Information Technology in the last decade, and was a key leader in the development of the local children's health coverage program for Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Merced Counties.

During my tenure in the California State Legislature we worked together on the revision of the California Mental Health Master Plan Act to upgrade services and make mental health treatment more accessible in our state.

Rama has been an active member of the Board of Directors of Central Coast Alliance for Health, served on various committees, and has given her time for the Health Services Agency, Health Improvement Partnership Council, Safety Net Clinic Coalition, Health Information Technology, and Santa Cruz Health Information Exchange.

After thirty-five years of public service, Rama hopes to spend more time painting, traveling, volunteering, enjoying classical and Celtic music and spending more time with her two children, Siri and Dayal, in her retirement. She also plans to continue with health advocacy, grant writing and policy work.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House and the entire mental health community in California as I commend Rama Khalsa for all she has done and all she will undoubtedly continue to do. I extend my most sincere thanks and warmest wishes for her success and much happiness in her retirement. We are all blessed by her public service.

CELEBRATING EDITH COLEMAN'S
95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mrs. Mary Edith Brown Coleman on a momentous milestone, her 95th birthday, which will be on February 13, 2012. Edith will be celebrating this milestone with family and friends on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Throughout the past 72 years, Edith's presence in Northwest Indiana has allowed her the opportunity to touch the lives of countless people.

Edith Brown was born on February 13, 1917 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She was one of four children born to Luther Albert Brown and Dora Rozolia Draper Brown. Having gone on to live in Kansas City, Kansas and Chicago, Illinois, Edith finally relocated to Gary, Indiana in 1940. Quite the accomplished student, Edith completed her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in education at Indiana University in Bloomington. From there, she decided to go into the teaching profession. As a teacher at Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Gary for over 27 years, Edith was able to enrich the lives of so many young people in the Gary community. For her commitment to the youth of Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of the highest praise.

Equally as impressive, Edith has always been seen as the foundation of her family. She and her husband, the late William Henry Coleman, were blessed with the births of two wonderful children: Norma Louise Coleman and Merle Jean Coleman. Edith's family, as well as those whose lives she has touched, admire her for devoting unselfish love, time, dedication, guidance, and spirit to her family, her students, and her friends.

As well as being dearly loved and respected by her family, her students, and her community, Edith is also well known for her involvement with her church, the First Church of God in Gary, and several other organizations. For years, Edith has been a distinguished member of the American Association of University Women, the Women's Association of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, the Red Hat Society, and the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. Since her arrival in Northwest Indiana, Edith has always been known as a good-hearted woman who is always willing to help the people in her community. For her selflessness, she is to be commended and admired.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Edith Brown Coleman has always given her time and efforts selflessly to the youth and the community in Northwest Indiana throughout her illustrious life. She has taught every member of her family and extended family the true meaning of service to others. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Edith a very happy 95th birthday.

HONORING ST. COLUMBKILLE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by St. Columbille Elementary School, Dubuque, Iowa by being named a 2011 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School.

The program honors elementary, middle and high schools that are superior academically or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels.

St. Columbille Elementary is one of only seven schools out of 1,633 in Iowa and one of 304 schools out of 132,656 nationwide to achieve Blue Ribbon status this year. Less than 1 percent of schools nationwide were chosen for the award. This is a true credit to the staff and teachers who continually challenge students to want more and be better.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of St. Columbille Elementary School and its Principal, Barb Roling. Earning this award shows strength and persistence and I am proud to serve these fine students in Congress.

MR. PATRICK J. SOLANO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick J. Solano, the 2012 Community Leadership Award recipient at Leadership Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Solano has a long history of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and his country.

Pat Solano was a member of the United States Air Force during World War II. While in the military, he was lauded many times for his exemplary service, which included more than 20 combat missions. His military awards include a Group Presidential Citation, the Air Force Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the European Combat Theatre Medal with two bronze stars.

After retiring from military service, Pat Solano dedicated himself to serving the great commonwealth in which he was born. He held many positions in state government, including serving as senior counselor to Governor Tom Ridge and Governor Mark Schweiker. Even today, at age 85, Pat Solano continues to serve as a counselor and advisor to many of Pennsylvania's legislators.

In addition to his work as a philanthropist and his role as a decorated war veteran, family has always come first for Mr. Solano. He and his wife Marie have six daughters and 11 grandchildren. He and his family have lived for years in Hugesstown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that Leadership Wilkes-Barre honors a man who has donated so much of his time and effort to furthering the success of the Commonwealth. I am certain that his efforts will not end here. The work of Patrick J. Solano has ensured the continued success of Pennsylvania, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge all of his efforts here today.